Trump pre-paid mobile service

768. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has launched a trump pre-paid mobile service from 15th January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether lower tariff set by MTNL has been welcomed by public in both the cities;

(c) whether this has forced the private companies to lower the charges; and

(d) if so, to what extent MTNL has achieved success in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a)Yes, Sir. MTNL had launched its Trump pre-paid mobile service from 14th January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Trump pre-paid service of MTNL has so far raised a customer base of 16,000 in Delhi and 9,200 in Mumbai since its launch on 14.1.2002.

Out-dated Mobile Technology

769. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact the V 5.2 is an out-dated mobile technology and is expensive to set up;

(b) whether there are other alternative modern technologies available to limit mobility in India, and if so, the reasons for insisting on V 5.2 technology; and

(c) the collection through revenue sharing and the amount kept in universal service obligation fund for funding of VPT and by when the allocation is likely to commence so as to benefit the basic telephone services provided to the masses?